

Sunday December 16th, 2018 The Third Sunday of Advent "The Questions of the Heart"

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today in worship. We hope you find City Church to be a warm, welcoming community—regardless of your background, beliefs, or life situation. To that end, we recognize that certain parts of the service may feel unfamiliar, so we've provided brief explanations throughout this guide.

Our worship is "liturgical." The Greek word "leitourgia" means a public work, the work of the people. Liturgical worship begins with God's call upon us, his meeting with us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity and then moving us outward into our world.

On pages 19-22, you'll find information about our community. We hope this helps you get to know us better and that, in turn, we can get to know you better. Help us welcome you by filling out the contact sheet on the back page and placing it in the offering basket or in our hands after the worship service.

All to say, we are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff *Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Jonathan Davis*

Sunday Info

UCity

- **Nursery, Room 111** Children 4 24 months for the duration of the service
- **Children's, Church Room 112–113** Children ages 2 through 5th grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1st – 5th graders will return prior to communion.
- Adult Ed Class, Upstairs Library On break until Jan Term
- Accessibility A wheelchair ramp and elevator are on site. A Greeter can assist you.
- **Coffee** is available at 9:15 am in the SE hallway.

Fairmount

- Nursery, 2nd floor Blue Room Children 4 36 months for the duration of the service
- **Children's Church, 2nd floor Green Room** Children ages 3 through 5th grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1st – 5th graders will return prior to communion.
- Accessibility A wheelchair ramp is on site. A greeter can assist you.

Reflection

"In a very real sense, the Christian community lives in Advent all the time. It can well be called the Time Between, because the people of God live in *the time between* the first coming of Christ, incognito in the stable in Bethlehem, and his second coming, in glory, to judge the living and the dead.... Advent contains within itself the crucial balance of the now and the not-yet that our faith requires."

Fleming Rutledge, Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ

Church Calendar

ADVENT

EPIPHANY LENT EASTER PENTECOST ORDINARY TIME

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

GOD SUMMONS US AS HIS PEOPLE

As we meet together each week, we recognize in the preparation that God, through his word and Spirit, gathers us into his presence and calls us into his life and mission.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord. *All* Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

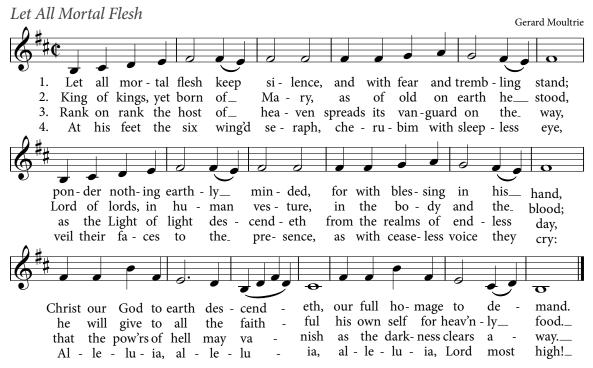
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

Opening song

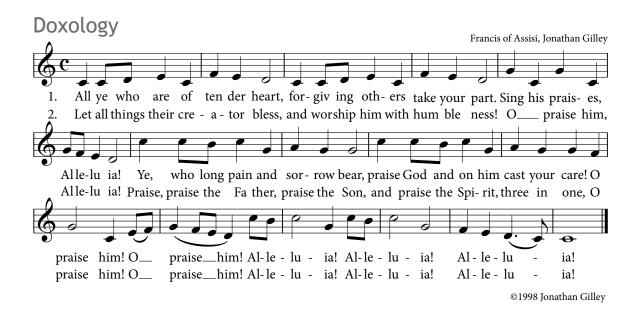
All



The Opening of Worship

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, All for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. from Isaiah 12

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving



Confession of sin

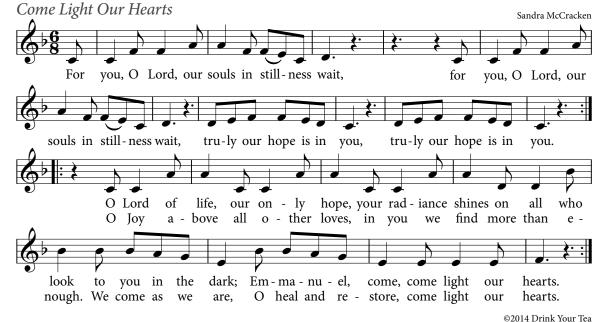
 All Father God, your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.
 We do not live as we should, and we do not hold fast to your promises.
 Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
 We have sinned: forgive and heal us.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May God, who in Christ gives you a spring of water welling up to eternal life: forgive you all your sins, cleanse you of all unrighteousness, and perfect in you the image of his glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving



GOD SANCTIFIES US TO HIMSELF

Throughout Scripture, when people find themselves in God's presence, they sense how far short they fall and become aware of their own shame and brokenness In the same way, we make a confession of sin, *both as a community* and also silently as individuals. In this. we remember that God is always ready, by his mercy and grace, to forgive us.

Comfort, Comfort Johannes Olearius, Catherine Winkworth, Johann Schop 1. Com-fort, com - fort ye my peo-ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God: cry – ing For the he – rald's voice is in the de – sert far and near, 2. God will par-don, blot ting out each dark mis deed; Yea, her sins our 3. 4. Make ve straight what long was crook-ed, make the rough - er pla-ces plain: com-fort those who sit in dark ness, mour ning 'neath their sor row's load. re-pen tance, since the king-dom bid-ding all men to now is here. de – served his an – ger all that well he will no more heed. see nor let your hearts be true and hum-ble, be – fits his ho – ly as reign, Speak ye the peace that Je – ru – sa – lem of waits for them; to that war-ning pre-pare for God cry o - bey!Now way! 0 а suf-fered many her griefs have passed a - way, She has day, now а now o'er earth for the glo – ry of the Lord is shed a – broad, tell her that her sins co – ver. and her war-fare now is Ι o – ver. Let the val – leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him. God will change her pin-ing sad-ness in – to e – ver spring-ing glad ness. and all flesh shall see the to – ken that his word is ne – ver bro-ken.

Children attending kindergarten and younger are invited to go to their classes at this time. 1st - 5th graders are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. *All* And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Word of God

New Testament reading: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 3:7-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD

In the public reading of the word of God and its exposition in the sermon, God shares the story of his saving mission in Jesus, encouraging us to join in that mission and orienting us again to his priorities. ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

"The Questions of the Heart" - Rev. Chris Currie

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich" - 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

The offering is an opportunity to participate in the ministry of City Church. Online giving is available at citychurchphilly. com/give. If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give we're grateful simply for your presence here today.

Creed

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. Having offered ourselves up in faith through the creed, affirming the power of God's redemption, we lift up the church, our world, and other needs to God in prayer for his provision and healing.

Prayers

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Lord, we often worry about how you will provide for us and take care of us. Sustain and support us, even as we are fearful and anxious. Give us assurance of your presence and your peace. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant wisdom to our leaders. Give them skill, sympathy, and patience to lead this country and our communities. Allow them to seek your face and judge rightly, knowing that you sit upon your throne in all power and majesty. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant your healing grace to all who doubt that they may be made whole in body, mind and spirit. Redeem us and remake us in your image, that we may live for your kingdom and not for the things of this world. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

Members of the congregation may add their own intercessions at this time, ending with,

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our Savior has taught us:

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Communion

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

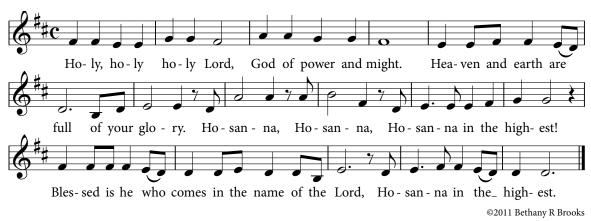
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *All* It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

And now we give you thanks because, through your servant John the Baptist, you prepared the way for your Son Jesus Christ, in whom the the day of our deliverance has dawned and through whom you will make all things new when he comes again in power and triumph to judge the world. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and singing: GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE

Communion, also called the Lord's *Supper, is the family* meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus *Christ to participate. If you are not a* follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection" are included below). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church. Sanctus



The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The minister speaks the Words of Institution.

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All Therefore, let us keep the feast.

We use wine in Communion. Nonalcoholic white grape juice and gluten-free rice cakes are also available if preferred. Please discard your Communion cup as you leave worship.

Prayers for Reflection

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weak and sinful, but through you, I am loved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death in order to offer me forgiveness and renewal. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life.

Communion Song

How Shall I Fitly Meet Thee

Gerhardt, Hassler, Bach



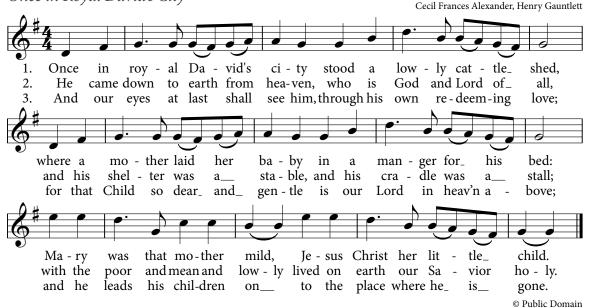
Prayer after Communion

All O Lord,

stir up our wills by your Spirit, so that we may be your faithful people who bring forth the fruit of good works for your glory and for the sake of the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Once in Royal David's City



GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

We have responded to God's call, heard his word, offered ourselves to his service, and received strength at his table. Now, at the close of worship, God sends us out to carry forward the gospel story.

Benediction

May Christ our King, who makes saints of sinners, raise and strengthen you that you may bless the world; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

West Philly

Kory Stamper: liturgist Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice Mike Jones: trumpet Matt Scarano: drums Josh Stamper: bass

Fairmount

Liz Voboril: liturgist Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice Mike Jones: trumpet Matt Scarano: drums Josh Stamper: bass

CONNECT

COMMUNITY GROUPS range in size from 10-15 people and meet weekly in the home of a group member for spiritual formation and friendship. We encourage you to visit multiple groups to see which one might be a good fit. Contact a leader if you plan to visit. Contact Jonathan Davis, jona-than@citychurchphilly.com if you have questions.

West Philly

- 50th & Springfield, Tuesdays 7_{РМ} Jessie Taylor, jessie.f.taylor@gmail.com
- 49th & Chancellor, Tuesdays 7_{РМ} Candy Cason, candy.cason@gmail.com
- 46th & Cedar, Tuesdays 7:30_{PM} Jade Avelis, jade.avelis@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Linda's, Wed 6:30^{PM} Janet Nygren, janetnygren@gmail.com
- 49th & Baltimore, Thursdays 6_{PM} Vieen Leung, vieenleung@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Dick's, Thursdays 6:30_{PM} Joel Bassett, jbassett4@gmail.com
- 51st & Chestnut, Fridays 6_{РМ} Jason Turner, jason.h.turner@gmail.com

Fairmount

- 21st & Parrish, Wednesdays 7_{РМ} Chaney Widmer, chaney.widmer@gmail.com
- 24th & Brown, Thursdays 7_{РМ} Katie Wildes, km.young.wildes@gmail.com
- 22nd & Poplar, Fridays 6:30_{РМ} Liz Voboril, voborils@gmail.com

South Philly

• 12th & Wharton, Wednesdays 7:30_{РМ} Kirstin Peth, kirstin.peth@gmail.com

Roxborough

• Tuesdays 6:30^{рм} Cale Weatherly, cale.weatherly@gmail.com

FAMILY MINISTRIES comes alongside families as they disciple their children, seeking to help them cultivate friendships, connect with the wider church community, and grow into maturity as people of faith.

- Children's Ministry Our children's classes use gospelcentered curriculum with scripture, stories, and activities to allow them opportunities to form spiritual friendships with their peers and teachers. See page 2 for site-specific details. Contact Ginger Hayes, ginger@ citychurchphilly.com.
- City Church Youth, Sundays 12:30-2:30pm. Students and Volunteer Leaders gather at a Woodland Presbyterian Church (42 & Pine) for fellowship, bible study, and prayer. Lunch is provided each week. Contact Jonathan Davis, jonathan@citychurchphilly. com.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS Ekklesia is our mid-week, liturgically oriented, worship space for college students. We meet together to pray, sing, confess, and hear from God's Word. Contact Natalie Harvey, natalie@citychurchphilly.com.

55+ is a group of older people attending City Church who gather monthly after Sunday services for a shared meal and shared prayer. Contact Ginny Toliver, ginny. toliver@verizon.net.

WOMEN'S DAYTIME BOOK

STUDY Tuesdays 9:30AM, Childcare available. Contact Eeva, eevaduddleston@gmail.com.

GROW

SERVE

City Church is a community committed to

growing in our life of joy and peace through communion with God in Christ. God uses many means to form his children into his likeness. As a church family, City Church focuses on eight practices that Christians historically have embraced for their growth. At right are a few links to help you get started.

- Read about our approach to Spiritual Formation | citychurchphilly.com/spiritualformation
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer
- Check out current and upcoming Adult Ed classes | citychurchphilly.com/adult-ed

Church	City	World		
 Prepare the space for worship by joining one of our hospitality teams: setup, communion, coffee, greeters, and scripture readers. Contact Dan Cason (UCity), dan@citychurchphilly.com Ryan McCormick(Fairmount), rmmccormick@outlook.com Serve our children and youth. Contact Ginger Hayes (children), ginger@citychurchphilly.com Jonathan Davis (youth), jonathan@citychurchphilly.com 	 Serve dinners with University City Hospitality Coalition on Friday evenings at Woodland Presbyterian Church, 42nd & Pine. Contact Julia Snyder, julia.a.snyder@gmail.com Tutor 1st graders at Lea Elementary. Contact Stacy Bartholomew, stacy. bartholomew@gmail.com Read with K-3rd grade students or serve a meal at Family Homework Night in Brewerytown - Thursdays at United Missionary Baptist Church. Contact Chris Currie, chris@citychurchphilly.com 	 Assist refugees with needs such as housing, employment, transportation, community resources, education, and social services through our partnership with HIAS Pennsylvania. Contact Esuga Abaya, esugaabaya@gmail.com Host international students for dinner. Contact Lyn Newbrander, Inewbrander@isionline.org 		
	GIVE			
The intentional financial partie	rination of • Place cash or	check in the offering basket		

The intentional financial participation of those who consider City Church their church home is vital. If you are not already tithing regularly, please prayerfully consider doing so. Our desire in giving is not only to meet our own needs but to be able to serve others in our city and neighborhoods. Here are a few ways that you can contribute financially to City Church:

- Place cash or check in the offering basket on Sundays
- Give online | citychurchphilly.com/give
- Text any amount to 84321, follow the link, and select City Church Philadelphia
- Checks may be mailed or arranged through Electronic Bill Pay to be sent to: City Church, PO Box 30902, Philadelphia, PA 19104

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lessons & Carols is Sunday, December 9 at 5 PM in U City

Please note that both the morning service in U City and the afternoon service in Fairmount are cancelled on Sunday, December 9 – we'll gather for one service of Lessons & Carols at 5 pm that day in U City. The service will feature both traditional and lesser-known Christmas music arranged and performed by musicians from Philly's jazz, classical, and indie scenes. Bring something sweet or savory for the reception afterwards! Invitations and posters available in back.

Christmas Eve Worship Service, 5 pm, West Catholic

Fairmount and U City will have a joint Christmas Eve worship service this year, at 5 pm at West Catholic High School.

UCITY

Youth Christmas Party is Friday, December 14 All youth (6th grade and up) are invited to a Christmas Party at the home of John & Elise Taylor-Baranik at 7 pm on Friday, December 14. Contact John at johntaylorbaranik@gmail.com for more information.

Sweeten Your Sunday with Bake Sale Treats on Sunday, December 16 The Youth will be hosting a bake sale before and after church on Sunday, December 16 to raise money for their summer mission trip. Plan to purchase something delicious!

FAIRMOUNT

Interested in Helping with Hospitality at Worship? Help prepare the City School space for worship by joining one of our hospitality teams: setup, communion, coffee, greeters, and scripture readers. Contact Ryan McCormick at rmmccormick@outlook.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January

6 Jan Term begins27 Youth Chili Cookoff

February

9 Parenting Conference

March

6 Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm (UCity)22-24 Men's Retreat

December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Lessons & Carols – 5 pm	10	11	12	13	14 Youth Christmas Party – 7 pm	15
16 Youth Bake Sale	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve Service – 5 pm	25	26	27	28	29

Staff

Tuck Bartholomew

Senior Pastor tuck@citychurchphilly.com 215.779.4242

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Dan Cason

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Chris Currie

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Jonathan Davis

Assistant Pastor jonathan@citychurchphilly.com 678.458.7614

Natalie Harvey University Ministry natalie@citychurchphilly.com 724.504.7589

Ginger Hayes

Children's Ministry ginger@citychurchphilly.com 917.583.2316

Instagram @citychurchphilly Twitter @citychurchphl Facebook @city.church.philadelphia

Help us welcome you.

Name(s):
Children & their ages:
If undergrad or grad student, school & year:
Address:
Phone number(s):
Email(s):
Would you like to receive our weekly e-newsletter? Yes No
Please contact me about:
Community Groups
Neighborhood Service Opportunities
Volunteering on Sundays
□ Children's & Youth Ministries
Meeting with a Pastor
Other:
Anything else you would like us to know about you?

Please tear off this back page and place in the offering basket.

